

# Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

## Bulletin

NEW SERIES, VOL. VI, No. 8

October 15, 1927

*"Children are not little isolated animals that may be shunted here or there and who soon forget or don't care whose they are. Without kinship ties, no matter what you do for him he is inexpressibly lonely. The deepest yearning of the child heart is for kindred."*

R. R. REEDER.

### REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the League gathered for its fall meeting, October 13th to 15th. Twenty members were in attendance. According to custom, the meeting was held more or less incommunicado at the Caroline Country Club, Hartsdale, N. Y. The convenience of the location became increasingly apparent throughout the three-day continuous session as the members realized that a convalescent home was immediately adjoining the Club.

#### FINANCES

The Committee came face to face with the issue which involves the very existence of the League; namely, the immediate financial situation and a financial program for the future. From the deliberation stand out three things. The most immediate is the importance of a supreme effort on the part of member agencies to raise for this year of 1927 the quotas worked out for them, if it is humanly possible. The second recognizes the necessity of evaluating the past and present working program of the League with a view to determining what can most profitably be achieved in the future, in the light of our resources, and to this end a Committee on Plan and Scope has been appointed. The members of this Committee are J. Prentice Murphy, Chairman, William Hodson, Jacob Kepecs, Miss Ruth Taylor, and Albert H. Stoneman. Finally, there came forward the full appreciation that the financing of the League rests squarely upon the shoulders of its member agencies and that success in this direction will be achieved only when every member has accepted this responsibility and has increased its efforts, no matter what they may have been in the past.

#### STANDARDS

Of equal import were the forward steps taken in the matter of standards of member agencies. The report

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### INSTITUTION NEWS

#### AID TO CHILDREN IN THEIR OWN HOMES BY INSTITUTIONS

An interesting extension of service is being demonstrated in several institutions in southern states. Four institutions conducted under church auspices—two of them Presbyterian and two Baptist—located in North Carolina and South Carolina, provide "mothers' aid" to children in their own homes. One of the pioneers in this form of institutional activity was the Thomasville Orphanage, of Thomasville, N. C. Since the inception of this aid by the institution, the State of North Carolina has passed a "mothers' aid" law, but, as is commonly the case, public funds are not yet adequate to meet all the needs. The Presbyterian Orphanage, Barium Springs, N. C., Connie Maxwell Orphanage, Greenwood, S. C., and Thornwell Orphanage, Clinton, S. C., are supporting only a very small number of children in their own homes, but are hoping to expand this service as funds permit. These three institutions have on their staffs case workers for intake work, and aid to children in their own homes is a direct development of the more thorough study of each case, which showed that some of the children for whom application was made for institutional care could be provided for in their own homes if the mothers had the necessary means to support them.

Adequate aid in each case, carefully administered in the interests of the children, even though the number of families aided must remain small because of the lack of funds, will be the most valuable contribution to the development of state and local acceptance of responsibility for preventing child dependency by conserving the home. As in institutional care, the quality of the service to the individual child is the important thing. There are all too many instances of "mothers' pensions," as administered by the public authorities in various states, being diluted to a point where the aid becomes negligible. It is a comparatively easy matter to obtain public interest and state legislation authorizing the granting of public aid to children in their own homes, but it is often quite a different matter to obtain adequate funds. Inquiry in a prosperous city in a

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## CAUSES OF MISBEHAVIOR IN FOSTER CHILDREN

MISS JESSIE P. CONDIT

Children's Aid Society and Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Newark, N. J.

(Concluded from September BULLETIN)

Edna is nine and has recently been placed in a foster home. The people are of moderate means, wholesome, sympathetic, and very fond of the child. When Mrs. S. goes to the telephone, Edna becomes nervous and excited. If Mrs. S. goes out of the house, the same thing occurs. She must always be where Edna can see her. When Mrs. S. phoned our office the other day Edna became hysterical and completely lost control of herself for a time.

Edna is an illegitimate child whose mother, a chorus girl, deserted her soon after birth. She left the baby with her father, a youth of good family, who paid board in a low-type boarding home until she was six years old. Here she received fair physical care, but almost no training. When the foster mother died, her daughter-in-law took the girl to live with her in a filthy home in the woods, where she was brought to our attention. With her father's cooperation she was placed with a very sympathetic, understanding woman who won her affection and helped her overcome many of her very bad habits.

A year later the father found himself in a difficult situation. He had been married for five years and had not told his wife or his parents about Edna. He was out of work and his wife was expecting to be confined. He felt it would be disastrous to tell her and his family of Edna's existence. He was unable to support the child and begged us to place her for adoption. The boarding mother loved her, and did not want to give her up, but could not afford to give her a free home. Moreover, she was moving to a community too far away for frequent supervision by the Society.

Edna was a nice-looking child, with an attractive personality. It was impossible for us to secure an early appointment with our community psychiatrist, but a psychological examination showed her to be of normal intelligence.

Her first placement was in a home where there was considerable wealth. These foster parents had known of her before she was placed in our care, and when they learned that she was available for adoption, begged to be allowed to take her. They had adopted one little girl and wanted a companion for her. Their references spoke in the highest terms of their sympathetic understanding of children and of their devotion to their foster child. Edna was much distressed at having to leave the home where she had been so happy, but the

kindness and generosity of her new foster parents, who showered her with gifts, won her completely.

She remained in the home for eight months, but she proved to be thoroughly out of place. She simply could not measure up to the standard they set for her. She was noisy and rough and impetuous—in fact, everything that the first little girl, their idol, was not. They thought her selfish and inconsiderate, although they admitted that she loved to run errands and perform little services for them all. They stressed her bad manners, although they were forced to admit that she had improved tremendously since she had been with them. Because she was demonstrative and would say to her foster mother, "I love you so much because you are trying to make me a good little girl," they thought her shrewd and calculating. In fact, she was so different from their other little girl that they could not adjust to her. She was more popular than the other child and they resented it and became even more critical of her. They felt no affection for her and wanted to give her up.

When Dr. Plant saw her he found her to be unhappy. She liked the people and loved the material comforts with which they had surrounded her, but felt their disapproval and was under constant strain to fit into her new environment. The foster mother had gone to the clinic with her mind strongly made up that she could not care for Edna and must return her to the Society. As soon as she learned that Dr. Plant agreed with her and that there was another home available for the child, she stiffened up and insisted that she could and would win out. From a psychiatric point of view Dr. Plant felt that Edna should be removed from the home at once. On the other hand, he was convinced that it would be almost criminal to do this. She wanted to stay and was terribly upset over the prospect of being moved. If she were taken away she felt that she would never trust him or the Society again, and there would be another sort of emotional upset to deal with. A certain pride and a sense of duty rather than affection for the child held the foster parents to the task for four months more. But resentment because she did better in school and was more popular in the neighborhood than her foster sister proved too strong and they decided to return her.

They had agreed to give us time to find a good home and to make clear to Edna the reason for the change. Instead they sent the child to visit in the home of an acquaintance and then recommended that we leave her there. The home is a good one from every point of view, and Edna is much happier there than in any other home, but she knows that she was put out of the other home because the foster parents did not like her. She has realized for the first time in her life that her stability does not rest upon her own plans or desires, but upon



whether her foster parents like her, and that she can be pushed out of a situation whether she likes it or not. We can readily understand her anxiety when the new foster mother is out of her sight, and we are told by Dr. Plant that it may be years before she gets over the thought that she is merely a pawn. The important factor in her adjustment will be her assurance of permanency. Fortunately, her new foster parents love her dearly; they have no other children with whom to compare her and they are looking forward eagerly to the time when they may be permitted to adopt her.

Edna's transfer was to a healthier and better atmosphere, and was a part of constructive treatment. The difficulty in such a situation is the accompanying destructive drive at the child's most fundamental need—stability in a place where he feels he really belongs. How important it is, therefore, for us who seek to adjust these children who must be removed from their own parents to use every possible facility for psychological and psychiatric treatment so that we may avoid doing the thing which for the child may spell disaster.

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of the Committee on Standards of Membership as adopted by the Executive Committee urged that definite measures be taken to make possible an evaluation of member agencies along the lines of some seventeen points which cover personnel, case load, case work methods, adaptation to community needs, co-ordination with other social forces, and so forth. It was suggested further that, because of the size of the task and the uncertainty as to financial resources of the League, the project should begin with the original, as well as the largest, group of members—the child-placing agencies. The Committee on Standards will continue with its task of defining the list of factors with which the evaluation should deal.

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCES

It was decided to have regional conferences during the coming year in New York, Chicago, Boston, Dallas, Birmingham and Louisville. The area in which Louisville and Cincinnati lie would appear to make a desirable region, and it was suggested that the regional conference alternate between these two cities, Cincinnati being given the hope of a conference next year. No dates have been set except for the Southern Regional Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, November 21 and 22. The programs of the regional conferences are to emphasize both the teaching matter of these conferences and the opportunity for getting the Child Welfare League before the community. Suggested subjects include: intake of institutions, training of staff personnel, parental education, health program, and requirements of the League.

The Committee on Education and Training endorsed the plan of keeping up the traveling teacher service as it was conducted under Miss Ethel Taylor, and the annual institutes, the first one of which was held in June of this year. The suggestion was made that in view of the increasing number of institutes being held in connection with state conferences of social work, the League hold itself ready to suggest persons who could give such institutes and to advise them that such a contribution on their part would be a service to the League as well as to the State Conference.

A new committee has been added to the list of standing committees, though as yet it has not been christened. The special function of this committee will be to seek out, study and report on new developments and trends in the child welfare field, with particular reference to the application of various sciences—medicine, psychology, psychiatry, and law—to child welfare activities.

#### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Space permits only the briefest reference to the many items in the report of work accomplished as given by the Executive Director.

Surveys were conducted during the year in the cities of Springfield, Mass., Chattanooga, Tenn., St. Louis, Mo., and Rochester, N. Y. In addition to the survey in the last-named city, a six months' demonstration is being carried out in the set-up of a child-placing agency presided over by Alfred F. Whitman of the Children's Aid Association of Boston, who was generously loaned by the organization for part time, with the case work supervision under Mrs. Edith M. H. Baylor.

The Department of Church Institutions shows a wide range of contacts in this field. No less than seven large sectarian groups requested and received a distinct service of consultation or survey by Mr. Hopkirk. In addition to such service, contacts were made with a large number of institutions within the church groups.

The organizations now number 128, with 122 additional branches. These include child-placing and protective societies, institutions for dependent children, maternity homes, clearing bureaus, and local public bureaus or departments.—PAUL T. BEISSER.

#### MEXICO COMBATS HIGH MORTALITY

A recent decree of the President of Mexico authorizes the National Department of Health to organize throughout the country a corps of volunteer health visitors as a means of checking the high infant mortality rates in that country. These visitors are not required to have previous training in nursing but will attend regular courses in child hygiene to be given at all the branch offices of the department of health.

## THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

*President*—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit  
*Vice-President*—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.  
*Secretary*—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York  
*Treasurer*—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.  
*Executive Director*—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

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state with a good mothers' aid law brought out the fact that during a period when employment was difficult to get, the mothers' aid list was greatly augmented by mothers who were out of work and were forced to maintain their families on the half-rations granted by the authorities administering mothers' aid. When they were able to obtain employment they waived the aid and went to work, even though this often meant neglecting the care of their children. The struggle for adequate aid has long been waged by family and child welfare workers who realize the futility of assistance that simply wastes the public funds by not making it possible for the home to be maintained at a standard that safeguards the health of the children and makes it possible for the mother to give them proper care and guidance.

The extension of aid by the institutions mentioned and by others in southern states may become an important contribution to the standards of aid to children in their own homes. The best service will be rendered by giving the same attention to the needs of the individual child that is given in the institution itself. It is a demonstrated fact that it costs less to maintain a child in his own home than in an institution, but the elements necessary for the maintenance of a home and for the preservation of the physical, mental, moral and educational welfare of the children demand a greater expenditure of money and service than is frequently admitted.—E. O. L.

### DETENTION OF JUVENILE COURT CHILDREN

The Board of Cook County Commissioners has issued a report on "Juvenile Detention in Relation to the Juvenile Court Policy," a study of the intake in Cook County (Chicago) Juvenile Detention Home made by students of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Social Service Administration. The study was made at a time when the administration of the Cook County Detention Home was at a low ebb and numerous problems were calling for solution. During the month studied, September, 1924, 693 children were admitted to the Detention Home. Four-fifths of these children were boys. Only thirty-one children were under seven years of age—dependent

children and lost children who had been picked up on the street by the police and brought to the detention home until the parents could be located. The small number in this group is significant.

Analysis of the sources from which children were received shows that police officers are the most important factors in the detention policy. Of the children detained, almost four-fifths had been brought in by the police. One of the most important findings of the study is the fact that almost half the children admitted to the detention home through the police were not heard in court. This raises a question of the possibility of preventing detention of a considerable number of children, especially when the situation is not serious enough to require consideration by the court.

Another fact of special significance in connection with possible prevention of detention is the large proportion of children who were released to parents, guardians or other relatives—43 per cent of the total. Since it was found practicable to release these children to their parents after a period of detention, it would appear probable that many of them might have been returned to their parental homes in the first place, instead of being brought to the detention home.

The report states that "in all districts, children are held two or three hours or longer, waiting for the Juvenile Officer or for their parents, or for a wagon to convey them to the detention home." Analysis of the period elapsing before admission to the detention home of children taken into custody by the police showed that 39 per cent were held in the station-house six hours or more, 9 per cent being held from twelve hours to sixty hours or more. The hour of being taken into custody is shown to be related to the time elapsing before admission to the detention home, but a considerable number of children who were apprehended during the daylight hours were in custody in the station-house more than four hours.

There has been much discussion of the practicability of superseding detention in a special detention home by a system of boarding children in subsidized family homes in accordance with the method in operation in Boston, St. Louis, and some other cities, alone or in combination with detention home care. Detention for some hours in station-houses has been found to be an unfortunate feature of both systems. The Chicago report shows that the presence of a commodious detention home and a special corps of juvenile police officers did not eliminate this evil, which has been complained of in connection with the Boston system and is probably present in most cities to a greater or less degree. The most important contribution of the so-called Boston system of detention in subsidized family homes has been demonstration of the fact that a very



large proportion of detention can be prevented. When there is available to the police a building with an apparently unlimited capacity, detention becomes an easy method of disposing of children who, if more care were taken, might be returned to their own homes where they were living previously and to which many of them will be returned after a short period with perfect safety to the community and to themselves.

When detention is really needed, it should be provided, whether by means of family boarding homes or special detention homes built for the purpose, with every possible attention to safeguarding the children while under care. But in this field, as in other institutional or foster home care, prevention is better than detention. Most of the evils that develop in detention homes—and there are many—may be solved through the elimination of needless detention.—E. O. L.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION—WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT

The psychological examination is individual. Tests can be given to a group, but the examination deals with one child at a time.

It is emphatically not the main purpose of the examiner to discover the child's weak points. Many of these inevitably come to light, but the aim is to discover his abilities, and to keep him working happily and at his highest level of efficiency. This necessitates many tests and so involves a long interview, in the course of which important traits of personality are brought into play.

We are not so crude nowadays as to think that it can alter the facts to the extent of making a dull child bright, but there is still a little feeling abroad that there is magic about it, that it is a sort of mill into the hopper of which one can drop a dusty problem and, by the turn of a crank, bring forth a golden solution, fool-proof and warranted to wear. What it really does is to give us another angle of approach to our problem, adding somewhat to the range and precision of our knowledge of the facts, and so giving us a better chance to work out our own solution.

A frequent and mischievous error is the identification of an "examination" with a "test," or, worse still, with "a Binet." The competent examiner utilizes many tests in any single examination, and selects them in each case to suit the child and the problem. Some form of the Binet-Simon age-scale is commonly a part of the program, because that scale includes a large number of excellent tests which are well standardized and well known. But the examination is more than the sum of all the tests employed, in psychology,

as it is in medicine. The psychologist, like the physician, includes in his data much that is not in the form of test results, and the most important part of his report is the interpretation of all these data in relation to the problem.

The psychological examination does not stand alone. The validity of the several tests used and the interpretation of the results obtained depend upon the physical and environmental conditions of the child's life and upon his emotional experience. The psychologist works to the best advantage as one of a team of closely cooperating specialists. A thorough physical examination and a good social history are prerequisites, and often the psychologist must defer judgment until still other specialists have rendered their verdicts. In many problems of behavior, for example, the psychiatrist's findings are obviously essential, and many a school failure is due to sensory defect. The children who find their way to clinics are likely to be just the ones in whose lives a variety of causes have worked together to make trouble, and no one of these factors can be evaluated or adequately treated without reference to the others.

Given the right conditions, a single examination helps us to estimate—(1) the kind and amount of co-operation which may be expected from the child towards the solution of his own problems; (2) the probable social value of this individual at maturity, and (3) in some cases, the probable causes of undesirable behavior. Examinations repeated at suitable intervals may be very helpful (1) because the rate and character of mental development is far more significant than the actual scores made at any particular date, and (2) because, when a child has been badly handicapped or mismanaged, one of the most cheering results of proper treatment is the gain in effective intelligence.—ROSE S. HARDWICK, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist, New England Home for Little Wanderers, and Head Psychologist, Division of Mental Hygiene, Department of Mental Diseases of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, 1926

The Bureau of the Census announces that birth rates for 1926 were lower than for 1925 in 26 of the 28 states in the birth-registration area for which complete returns have been received. The highest 1926 birth rate (26.4 per 1,000 population) is shown for Florida, and the lowest (14.2) is for Montana. Twenty-one of the 28 states show higher infant mortality rates in 1926 than in 1925. The highest 1926 infant mortality rate (92.9 per 1,000 live births) appears for Delaware, and the lowest (51.6) for Oregon.

### REPORT BY THE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU ON THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF CLEVELAND

The recently issued study of the Cleveland Children's Bureau, made by Miss Mary Mather Leete, is another evidence of how closely the Federal Children's Bureau follows the trend of affairs in children's work in this country. Miss Leete has given us a kind of photographic picture of the heart of the social case phases of child welfare in that city. The picture is not strictly inclusive, however, and gives no help as to the real values which should be attached to the Cleveland plan in contrast with the methods followed in certain other cities which are also interested in seeing a better order of social work for children in their own borders.

The staff of the Cleveland Bureau has been well chosen and has had able and devoted direction. There has been good supporting case work from the leading case work agencies and yet the situation is not so free from difficulties and uncertainties as Miss Leete's study seems to indicate. The idea of a central reception and investigation bureau is not new—Philadelphia entered upon such a plan in 1907 and abandoned it in 1920, and Boston has persistently refused to try the plan. Yet Boston has arrived at standards of child care which have not been approached by most other large cities. And this in a measure is true of Cleveland.

We feel that Miss Leete is too respectful of all that is contained in the March, 1921, program for a community-wide plan for child welfare. Cleveland is suffering from the efforts to live under the plan. A little more skepticism as to certain of its most important planks and a stricter checking of those developments which are not in accord with good social case work would be very helpful. Assistance in this regard is not given by Miss Leete, but will have to come from a supplemental study which will reveal how the plan has really worked.

For example, according to the plan, the Cleveland Humane Society is to do the child-placing job for the whole community. Said plan never has worked and is not working now. The original suggestion in this regard was unwise and ill-founded. No one agency in a metropolitan community can do all the child-placing. It is axiomatic that where possible an agency should complete the care which is needed for each child received—that continuance of care after he is ready to leave the institution, if the agency has one, is a logical step for the child. No single experience is quite so liberalizing and broadening for any group of workers in the child-caring field as being made to do careful foster-family work. Under the Cleveland plan this valuable experience is concentrated in the staff of the Humane Society, which agency is the object of

criticisms—shall I say unfair—from the other child-caring agencies, apparently because it does not move children fast enough, but really because, through a faulty plan, these agencies have been prevented from getting a correct understanding of how much more complete their care must be.

The Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania was once charged with the entire child-placing program of Philadelphia. It abandoned the plan for the same reasons which bear vitally on the Cleveland situation.

All who are interested in following the Cleveland plan must study it in contrast with the actual practices in other cities, and they must study the changes pending in Cleveland. A decentralized child-placing program and institutions all under the direction of social case workers are in order.—J. PRENTICE MURPHY, The Children's Bureau of Philadelphia.

### BRAZIL ADOPTS JUVENILE CODE

On December 1, 1926, a new code was adopted in Brazil defining and safeguarding the rights of children. Among other things provided for are: public supervision of infants under two placed outside their own homes, regulation of the admission of foundlings to institutions, and the transfer of guardianship of minor children to organizations, institutions and individuals with provision of state supervision of the children after transfer of guardianship. The labor of minors is also regulated. Court procedure and commitment to "schools of preservation" are provided in the cases of minors under the age of 18 found neglected, and probationary supervision, institutional care and parole for delinquents under 18, who also may not be imprisoned in general prisons. Such standards are significant of the interest which will bring the Pan-American Child Welfare Congress together in Havana, Cuba, in December of this year.

### STAFF NOTES

Mr. C. W. Areson, who has been on the League's staff and in charge of the Department of Group Movements in Child Care, has been given leave of absence to become Secretary of the Children's Code Committee of Wisconsin, beginning this new work October 15th.

Miss Ethel Taylor, who had expected to conduct a training course for children's work executives under the auspices of the New York School of Social Work, has been prevented from undertaking this work by illness, but it is hoped that she may be able to carry out the plan during the second semester of the school year.



## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The county organization work of the State Charities Aid Association has been instrumental in effecting a workable combination between public and private effort in child care in a large number of the counties of New York. Forty-eight of the fifty-seven counties outside of New York City now employ one or more agents for the care of dependent and neglected children. In practically all of these counties the State Charities Aid Association has assisted in the organization of resources and in a majority of them the work is under the supervision of local County Committees of the Association.

The recently issued report of the State Child Welfare Department of Alabama, covering the four-year period from 1923 to 1926 inclusive, puts much emphasis on the value of county organization for child-welfare work. The county child-welfare superintendent, by coordinating the various forms of welfare work in the county, is able to provide the service needed with the least duplication of effort.

To meet the need for more trained social workers with an understanding of conditions in the rural sections of the South, an arrangement has been made for the Shelby County board of education, the county board of revenue, and Alabama College to unite in paying the salary of a trained social worker, who serves as probation officer and school attendance officer and also conducts classes in social case work at Alabama College. The plan has been in operation for more than a year, the worker using the students as assistants in order to give them field experience.

The report calls attention to the fact that social work in Alabama is crippled by the lack of legal provision for mothers' aid. This is especially true in cases where a child working illegally has no other means of support. While private charity, the help of the Red Cross, and various other measures are meeting the situation to some extent, legislation is urgently needed to give a dependable source of income in cases of evident want.

The State Department of Welfare of Georgia, Miss Rhoda Kaufman, Secretary, finds encouraging progress in a review of the conditions affecting children in 1920, the year of its organization, as contrasted with conditions in 1927. There has been a marked increase in the use of social service facilities in safeguarding the placement of children; institutional care is definitely changing from long-term custody to short-term care followed, often, by placement in foster homes; the number of communities employing social workers has increased from 8 to 16; juvenile courts have increased from 8 to 125 and probation officers from 12 to 20.

## MANUFACTURERS DISCOURAGE CHILD LABOR

We are informed by the National Child Labor Committee that the National Association of Manufacturers has gone on record, by official vote of its Board of Directors, in favor of certain of the fundamentals for which the opponents of child labor have long been working. These include evidence of physical fitness for work in children between 14 and 16, a minimum educational requirement, attendance at continuation school, restricted hours of labor and prohibition of employment under dangerous conditions. Evidence that this is a real step in advance appears from the fact that at present only 6 states meet all these requirements. It is doubtless true that these are not ideal standards and well below those of the National Child Labor Committee, but the action may be hailed as a return of that American regard for childhood which seemed for a time to be in eclipse.

## DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF PARENTS

The Child Study Association of America and a number of other organizations whose work concerns family relationships will meet in a one-day conference on parent education on November 2, 1927. Staffs and board members of member organizations of the Child Welfare League will find the program of special interest. The place of meeting is the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City and the full program can be secured by writing the League office or the Child Study Association before the date of the meeting.

## ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members only)

1. THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF CLEVELAND, FEDERAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU PUBLICATION No. 177. Copies of Report being sent direct from Federal Children's Bureau. Reviewed in this issue.
2. ANNUAL REPORT, 1926-1927, CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, NEW YORK AMERICAN LEGION. Description of an educational program designed to promote cooperative effort in children's work.

## CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA. Mrs. Myra Van Nostrand-Brown, State Executive Secretary, has resigned.

JEWISH CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF BALTIMORE—Name changed to JEWISH CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOME AND AID SOCIETY—New address, 1213 Medical Arts Bldg., Fort Worth, Texas.

### INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MR. JAMES E. EWERS, Cleveland, Ohio.  
*Vice-President:* MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* MISS RUTH COEBY, St. Paul, Minn.

### CATHOLIC BUREAU ANALYZES ILLEGITIMACY PROBLEMS

The problem of illegitimacy is one of the most delicate as well as difficult with which the Bureau has to cope. In an effort to understand more clearly the factors involved, the Bureau made a study of all the cases under care during a period of three years—1923–25. In all, 707 cases were studied. The following tables of facts are somewhat illuminating:

#### AGE OF MOTHER AT BIRTH OF CHILD

13–15 years.....	41	21–29 years.....	224
16–17 years.....	99	30 years and over....	47
18–20 years.....	194	Unknown.....	102

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#### DISPOSITION OF CHILD

With mother.....	178	In foster homes.....	122
With relatives.....	41	In boarding homes....	55
Legally adopted....	58	In institutions.....	132
Transferred to other agencies.....	10	Miscellaneous.....	111

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It is not possible to make any definite statement in regard to the mentality of these girls, as mental examinations had not been made in all cases. It is true, however, that mental defectiveness is a factor in these cases which merits more careful consideration than it has received heretofore. A further development of special classes in the schools for mentally handicapped children, with emphasis upon moral training and character formation, should result in diverting many of these young people from paths of delinquency.

The findings in this study seem to emphasize also the need for the supervised recreation of our young people, greater educational opportunities, and more careful moral and religious training, particularly in the rural sections of the state. It is gratifying to note that not a few of the parishes, and notably some of the non-English-speaking parishes, are developing community center activities in their own parish halls. This would seem to be the logical development. With the inspiration and encouragement of the priests of the parish, and under competent leadership, these activities should prove a great constructive force in the field of prevention. If only our Catholic laity who have been endowed with special gifts and have enjoyed the ad-

vantages of higher education and training could realize how much within their power lies the prevention of sorrow, anguish, and disappointment among these young people, they would not be so apathetic and remain aloof from active participation in such work as that of the Big Sister and Big Brother groups.

The reputed father contributed to the support of the child in only about one-seventh of the cases studied. Through the courtesy and cooperation of Catholic lawyers, the Bureau endeavors to follow up all these cases with the view of forcing the reputed father to share in the financial responsibility for the support of the child.

While wishing in every way possible to safeguard the reputation and future welfare of the mother, the Bureau none the less feels that the rights of the child should not be lost sight of, and that the health of the infant should not be jeopardized by too early separation from the mother. Whenever and wherever possible, therefore, the Bureau advocates that the child be kept with the mother at least during the nursing period. It is recognized, of course, that no hard and fast plan can be applied in the treatment of these problems, and that in the final analysis, good, thorough case work will suggest the best plan to be followed in each particular case.—ANNUAL REPORT, 1926, THE DIOCESAN BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

In a publication by the Canadian Council on Child Welfare, Ottawa, Canada, 1927, "Study Outlines of Some Child Welfare Problems in the Canadian Field," there is included a brief discussion of an outline of a proposed program relating to the child born out of wedlock from which the following is taken: "Canadian Child Welfare opinion can be briefly summed up in the statement written into the Canadian Council's Aims, that in all cases of the treatment of children of unmarried parents, the well-being of the child shall be the first consideration. . . . Ontario's enactment in this connection, which incorporates all but one or two of the most modern standards in this field, has been in operation long enough to allow us to judge somewhat of the social and economic results of legislation based on modern principles. These results enable us to claim, . . . a reduction in their neglect, in their social dependency, and in their commitment to public institutions, as the result of legislation based on humane and just considerations. Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have now gone farther than Ontario in this matter, and have enacted legislation, incorporating what are recognized as the highest standards in the world, in the treatment of this subject."